

*Via Facsimile 571-273-8300*PATENT  
18180 (AT No. 20958-2140)**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed January 24, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-19 and 21-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 2 and 20 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 13, 17 and 20 have been indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. The examiner is thanked for indicating these claims allowable. Claims 10 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1, and the allowable subject matter of claim 20 has been added to claim 14.

Turning to the substantive rejections, claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ciesko et al. (U.S. Patent 5,949,027) ("Ciesko"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejections for reasons set forth hereafter.

The above claim amendments are believed to render moot the rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 14. Specifically, the allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1. Thus claim 1 is submitted to be patentable. Claim 10 has been written in independent form, including the subject matter indicated as being allowable. Thus claim 10 is submitted to be patentable. Claim 13 has been written in independent form, including the subject matter indicated as being allowable. Thus claim 13 is submitted to be patentable. The allowable subject matter of claim 20 has been added to claim 14. Thus claim 14 is submitted to be patentable. For at least these reasons, the dependent claims are also patentable.

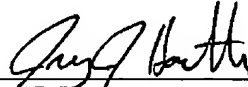
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 be withdrawn.

*Via Facsimile 571-273-8300*

PATENT  
18180 (AT No. 20958-2140)

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jay J. Hoette  
Registration No. 50,666  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070